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the PHOENIX

The Student Newspaper of Governors State University

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Why state of IL owes GSU \$\$

A look at how the state's soaring budget crisis is affecting GSU's pocketbook

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Hispanic Heritage Month

Check out the calendar of events celebrating contributions of Hispanic-Americans

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A Memoir by Kristin Hersh



President Maimon addresses GSU faculty, students, and staff at Convocation 2010

“Universities are places of hope even in dark times”

President Maimon assures faculty and students GSU is in good shape despite IL's fiscal troubles

By Kimberly Snapp
Contributing Writer

While the news of Illinois' budget crisis has been a regular storyline in local news this year, GSU President Elaine Maimon says the GSU campus is in good fiscal shape and continues to move ahead with innovation and great promise for the future.

“Universities are places of hope even and particularly in dark times,” Maimon said during her annual state of the university address at the convocation held September 15 in Sherman Hall.

The president noted several milestones pointing to GSU's future success including approval for the remodeling and updating of the E and F wings, which house our science division.

“This has been a personal obsession of mine,” she said noting that it has been nearly a decade that the university has been waiting to finish the multi-million dollar project.

The state has approved \$23.5 million in funding and The National Science Foundation has donated \$2.3 million to the science wing renovation making a grand total of more than \$25 million for the updates.

Dr. Maimon made it clear to the standing room only crowd that GSU is rising above in “troubled waters.” According to Maimon, the state owes GSU \$2.8 million from the last fiscal year making a total of about \$11 million in bills paid that the government is yet to give us a penny for. As Dr. Maimon put it, this is putting our “fate in our own hands.” Despite the state being in “the worse fiscal shape in history,” Governors

State University is “a strong sailing craft on increasingly troubled waters,” Dr. Maimon said.

Other milestones included the presentation of the university's first doctoral degrees at the June commencement. President Maimon said undergraduate enrollment has increased 8.2%. However, despite a slight increase, master's degree programs continue to struggle. These departments will undergo program reviews to find ways to boost enrollment numbers.

Another important highlight was GSU's efforts to help create seamless educational opportunities for incoming students by teaming up with two- year colleges. Maimon said it's important that we not abandon students, but provide them with a “pathway” from the community college to a Bachelors degree.

Dr. Maimon left the crowd with one important goal as a university, “To be indispensable to the region.” To do this, she said, we need to be a model 21st century university and remain open to new ideas.

“Governors State University is here to improve lives and nourish spirits,” she said.

At the convocation Dr. Maimon also presented Excellence Awards to three faculty members:

Taida Kelly, Assistant Professor in the College of Education, who said of the award that he felt he should be giving awards to all of his students, past and present.



Taida Kelly (Left) Terry Allison, Provost (Right)



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the PHOENIX

The *Phoenix* is Governors State University's student newspaper. It is published twice monthly during the fall and winter, and monthly during the spring/summer.

We welcome articles, suggestions, photos, commentary, cartoons, and letters to the editor on issues that concern you or the greater GSU population.

We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, legality, and interest to our GSU readership.

All submissions should be signed, and include the student, faculty, or staff member's ID number, department, and phone number.

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Stewart's 'Rally to Restore Sanity' hypocritical

*Courtesy of the Daily 49er Editorial Board
California State U*

There are many annoying things that can occur during an argument that make it a waste of time. Among these things are fighting with a 5-year-old – or someone with the mentality of one – fighting with someone who speaks another language and fighting with either your parents or your boss because, well, no one ever wins those arguments.

However, we find the most annoying thing to be fighting with someone who believes that being the loudest qualifies them as the winner. Sorry, but the pitch of your voice does not affect what you are saying. It only makes you look out-of-control. Being loud also applies to people who go to the extreme in attempts to prove their point. So for the sake of our argument, go ahead and read this editorial at-most twice and in a quiet whisper in your head.

Fortunately, though, we aren't the only ones who feel this way. On Oct. 30 John Stewart will lead a "Rally to Restore Sanity" in Washington D.C.

According to its official website, the rally is for "people, who think shouting is annoying, counterproductive and terrible for your throat; who feel that the loudest voices shouldn't be the only ones that get heard."

Stewart wants the "busy majority," those "who've been too busy to go to rallies, who actually have lives and families and jobs," to attend the rally. A dosage of moderation is definitely what this country needs, especially in politics. Of course, certain issues need attention and we aren't ones to discourage voicing your opinion, but doing so shouldn't require two sides to engage in an all out war

against one another.

Since it is critical to be able to acknowledge both sides of an issue – see what we're doing here – we know that both sides must be expressed, but they shouldn't be expressed with screams. People can make reasonable and appropriate decisions without all the craziness. People should be able to see eye-to-eye on an issue, without having to look up or down at someone to do so.

There is just one problem with rallying at the Washington Monument in order to encourage America to "take it down a notch," though. Drawing big crowds of people would be hypocritical. Stewart may be a satirist, but at some point he has to be held accountable for what he literally does.

There is one person who took the hypocrisy a step further though. Glenn Beck, whose August rally "Restoring Honor" is basically being mocked by Stewart's.

Beck attempted to link patriotism and religion on the anniversary of the "I Have a Dream" speech of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Beck's rally drew in predominantly white and conservative crowds. The political view of the anticipated participants for Stewart's upcoming rally couldn't be summed up in just a single sentence but that doesn't mean he's not being hypocritical.

Taking place on the same day as Stewart's, Stephen Colbert's rally "March to Keep Fear Alive," dichotomizes it.

Colbert is obviously poking fun with the title since it's impossible to escape all the warnings that are loudly expressed. We just need to get rid of those ideas that are exaggerated and settle for some moderation.

'Convocation' cont. from page 1

Marilyn Yirku, Academic Coordinator of Communication Programs in the College of Arts and Sciences(CAS). "What an honor amongst so many extraordinarily talented, skilled and caring faculty and staff," said Yirku.

The final award went to Daniel Nearing, Academic Coordinator of Independent Film and Digital Imaging Program, in CAS. Professor Nearing was at the Toronto

International Film Festival with several students and could not attend the convocation.

The university's highest honor, the Gerald C. Baysore Award, went to Kathy Miller, former Civil Service Senate President and current Institutional Research Data Coordinator. The award is given annually to a faculty member who exemplifies integrity, competence, dedication to the university, and unfailing civility.



Kathy Miller embraces Dr. Maimon as she receives Baysore Award

The state of Illinois in dept to GSU

By Kimberly Stabosz
Staff Writer

The economy. A topic on the minds of millions these days as our news is filled with company bailouts, real estate foreclosures, and the Illinois state debt. As a Governors State University student it is natural to wonder, "How is Governor's State doing financially?" Or, "Is this school in debt?" Although the state funding GSU typically receives has declined, and tuition has increased 5.8% this past year, according to staff at GSU, the university is still thriving in a financially unstable time.

However, this does not mean Governor's State is completely free of financial challenges. Even Maimon admitted, "There is no question that the State of Illinois is in the worst fiscal shape in its history and its public universities are suffering from an ever declining level of state support."

Gebeyeu Ejigu, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff of the university, explained the state funding for Governors State has been declining steadily since 2002. Not only has there been a decline of funding, the state actually owes GSU \$2.8 million from the 2009-2010 fiscal year and \$8.5 million from the 2010-2011 fiscal year appropriations, according to Ejigu.

"These are funds we have already expended using our tuition and fee resources and for which we have filed vouchers for reimbursement from the state," Ejigu said.

Due to the lack of funds from the state, it is completely necessary that GSU manage its money to the very best of its ability. In doing so, GSU has developed Strategy 2015, a strategic plan aimed at developing internal and external goals and initiatives including financial growth and responsibility.

In addition, the university has had to make cutbacks, but all cutbacks are in the best interest of students.

According to Ejigu, the university is engaged in aggressive cost cutting and productivity improving initiatives as well as in diversifying its revenue streams, primarily through philanthropy and grants.



"The university had to take a series of belt-tightening measures over the years. However, the measures that we have been taking were all designed to hold instruction-related functions harmless," Ejigu said. "In other words, instruction-related activities or those directly affecting students were protected from these

measures."

Examples of these cut backs, were restrictions on hiring of new staff and out-of-state travel, however, faculty hiring was not restricted.

"The university also did not administer any across-the-board or merit-based salary increases since July, 2008," Ejigu said. All of the cost cutting, and financial planning combined serves as an explanation for the control of GSU's debt, even with the lack of state funding. However, that does not mean the debt of the university is not extensive.

"GSU's actual debt totals about \$3 million a year. The debt payment is required to amortize three debt issues totaling \$28.69 million to finance a deferred maintenance initiative, and one installment payment contract in the amount of \$8.3 million to finance a guaranteed energy savings projected initiated in June, 2009," Explained Ejigu.

One thing is for certain, worry about the financial status of the university has not stopped students from enrolling in undergraduate programs here at GSU. Enrollment has increased 10.23% in full-time undergraduate programs since last Fall. This news pleases President Maimon.

"We should feel proud of our success in attracting and retaining undergraduate transfer students," Said Maimon during her remarks at Convocation.

So, what is in the future for Governor's State? Will tuition increase again next year? Will enrollment keep rising? According to Ejigu, that will depend on three factors.

"First, what the state will be doing in making good on already appropriated funds and what our appropriations for the next fiscal year would be, second--enrollment trends, and third--trends in our costs of doing business," he said. "Regardless of what happens with the state, GSU will continue to be one of the best bargains for quality of education in Illinois."



GMAT

Prep Courses at GSU

GSU'S College of Business and Public Administration is now offering GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) preparation courses for students wishing to enter graduate school programs requiring the exam.

The GMAT Prep Series concentrates on the quantitative and verbal sections of the GMAT.

Topics to be reviewed include data sufficiency, ratios and proportions, word problems, fractions, and percentages, as well as reading comprehension, critical reasoning, sentence correction, and analytical writing.

Classes will be offered on Saturdays, October 9, 16, 23, and 30, and November 6 and 13, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in room B2202. Total costs for the six sessions is \$300. Registration and full payment must be completed before the first class.

For more information or to register, contact the CBPA Advising Office at (708) 534-4391 or bpa-info@govst.edu.

GSU's Main entrance gets new digs

By Kimberly Stabosz
Staff Writer

Students entering school through GSU's main entrance may have noticed the current change of scenery inside the D Building's main entry atrium. Where there once was a wall of offices filled with students and administrators now sit empty spaces, waiting for renovation.

GSU is in the midst of a \$521,000 construction project, which will develop new spaces for student enrollment services, and a welcome center in the main entry atrium.

This renovation project plans to include a welcome and information area, a help desk for student questions and navigation assistance, GSU's Admission and Financial Aid Offices, a cashier's window, other student support offices, and a student lounge. There will also be a bank of computers meant for prospective students' online orientation, and a new, modern design giving the current atrium a bit more spunk than it had before.

Dean Sherilyn Poole describes the renovation as a way to reinvent the admissions procedure for prospective students.

"What we are doing is pulling together the offices that prospective students need to get to," Poole explains. "This will be able to contain the process and make it easier for students to access." Poole says this new design will hopefully help students quickly get the information they need, and things will get done faster.

While the initial focus has been on the prospective student use of this space, there will be plenty for the current GSU student to utilize as well. The current students will be able to make use of the computer bank, enjoy the new student lounge, and take advantage of the Advising Conference room, where students can schedule meetings with their advisors and other administrative personnel in a more convenient location.

Construction will begin in the next couple of weeks.



Construction set to begin on GSU's main entry atrium (pictured).

During renovation, a construction wall will be set in place, and the main entry will remain open for student use. The Office of Admissions is momentarily relocated to a temporary structure near the C Building. The Dean of Students and Interdisciplinary Studies offices are in F1617.

The entire project is scheduled to take between 90 and 120 days to complete. The hopefuls in the administration are looking at 90 days, which would mean the renovations will be completed just before the holiday season.

GSU's Board of Trustees approved the expenditure of funds to renovate the atrium area at the board meeting on June 11 of this year. The estimated cost of the project does not include cost of furniture.

Dean Poole says, now that the temporary structure is in place for the Admissions Office, faculty and staff are

starting to inquire.

"The notion of the project is coming to the forefront of people's minds," she said. Poole said the overall emotion of the university regarding the renovation is excitement. She hopes this will contribute to the already successful increases in enrollment numbers at GSU.

The project serves as a further indication of the university's commitment to building enrollment in a way that can energize prospective students and make them feel good about choosing GSU.

As exciting as the renovation is, there is a bit of a downside. GSU's library sits directly above the construction site. Therefore, those quiet days of studying for many GSU students will be temporarily disrupted by the sounds of drills and hammers; a small price to pay for such a significant improvement to our campus.

October 5 to 11 is Mental Health Awareness Week at GSU.

The University will offer informational sessions and confidential depression screening at a series of events that are free and open to the public.

Mental Illness Awareness Week at GSU begins Monday, October 4, with an information session on Bipolar Disorder from 5 to 6 p.m., in Room B1215. An information session on Tuesday, October 5, focuses on Generalized Anxiety and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) will be discussed Wednesday, October 6. The Tuesday and Wednesday sessions also take place from 5 to 6 p.m., in Room B1215. Refreshments will be served at all three open sessions.

On Thursday, October 7, National Depression Screening Day will feature screening, from noon to 5 p.m., in Room B1215, and an information table from noon to 4:30 p.m. in the Hall of Governors. The depression screening involves completing a brief questionnaire and a conversation with a mental health professional. The questionnaire results are anonymous and confidential. If warranted, the mental health professional will offer next-step suggestions.

ARC's Counseling Center is hosting Mental Illness Awareness Week Activities. ARC provides ongoing counseling services to GSU students. The Counseling Lab at Governors State University provides free, confidential services to adults, couples, and families.

For more information, call (708) 235-2228.

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**1 University Parkway
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Faculty Spotlight: Professor Marilyn Yirku

Michael Coglianese
Contributing Writer

If you're lucky, you have arrived at a time when University Parkway is not heavily congested with Governor State University traffic. There are no GSU traffic officers to impede the flow of traffic, and you might just be able to enjoy the trip onto campus.

You might notice a rather startling sculpture of Paul Bunyan, who appears to all the world to have tied one on the night before. If you time it right, you might arrive during late spring or early summer and be able to enjoy a riot of colors in the form of yellow day lilies and black-eyed Susans.

Once you arrived on campus, you will find your way to Professor Marilyn Yirku's office and upon entering you will find an atmosphere of controlled chaos. Inside her office you will find a desk that is piled with all things academic, a computer that seems to be warm from hours of working on progressing the goals of her students, stacks of student papers, and a phone that seems to ring continuously.

There are reference materials and books on her desk, on her shelves, and in file cabinets in her office and across the way in the main communications office as well. But it's not all work in Yirku's office, you will notice framed pictures of her five natural children and one adopted child, and pets, which include an 8-year-old Shepherd-Husky mix named Micha, and an eight-year-old orange tabby cat by the name of Whiskers.

Professor Yirku had a brother, James, who died at the age of 49 of a heart attack. She considered him a hero and always looked up to him. He was a major influence in her life. At the time of his young death, it made Professor Yirku take a look at her life and make some positive changes. She stated, "Life is pretty short, and we never know what tomorrow will bring."

There are also several notable items all around her office including a small sand garden with pink sand which sits on her shelf and catches your eye. A hula hoop sits in a corner. There is a quote from Yoda of Star Wars fame sitting on a shelf which says, "Do, or do not, there is no try."

Professor Yirku's office is a reflection of her unique personality. She is the type of human who inspires, encourages, and acknowledges her fellow staff and students' achievements.

She is an extremely busy woman who always makes time for anyone who walks into her office; and no matter what she is doing, she will always greet you with a smile and a "Hi ya!"

Marilyn Yirku was born in Chicago on June 18, 1939. As is so often the case, Professor Yirku's parents were divorced. In her words, "My early life wasn't fun."

To make ends meet, her mother worked all the time. She attended several different Catholic schools because they were always moving. The first of those schools was St. Basil's, and the second was St. Brides on Chicago's South Shore. The hardship of leaving friends prompted Professor Yirku to take the CTA back and forth to St. Brides from her new neighborhood. She



went to Loretto Catholic Girls' High School and did well in everything but French. She hated French. She was inducted into the Honor Society, she was a future editor of the school newspaper, editor of a club newspaper, and was part of the year book staff. She began her working life baby sitting and also worked at a drive in as a carhop, going from car-to-car. As a carhop, she earned tips only. She worked at Walgreen's and also worked as a secretary when she graduated high school. Professor Yirku stated she worked all through high school to have spending money.

Professor Yirku did her undergraduate degree at Mundelein College, which is now part of Loyola University and majored in liberal studies and minored in women's studies. She graduated Magna Cum Laude at the age of 52.

She was unable to participate in certain extracurricular activities because she worked a full-time job at AT&T. She earned a Master's Degree from Northeastern Illinois University in Community and Family Counseling at the age of 59. Her first goal in life was to have children and raise a family. Professor Yirku was married twice. She had five children during her first marriage while completing her studies: Sue, Mike, Steve, Mary, and Dan.

During the early years, a young man by the name of George who was a friend of her children came to spend the night and "stayed for six years." She is now married to Jay, who teaches acting workshops at GSU.

Professor Yirku's hobbies include reading. She is an avid reader who particularly loves fiction and mysteries. Regarding sports, she has never been heavy into sports, but when she was younger she enjoyed softball and played the position of pitcher. She is currently a White Sox fan. When asked if she had talent, she replied, "No, but I used to love to dance." She used to attend contests and once won a jitter bug and a twist competition.

When asked about travel, Professor Yirku stated she has traveled to Italy, France, and Alaska, has camped in northwest Oregon, where her daughter lives, and has traveled to Arizona and New York, where her son lives.

Professor Yirku worked in the private sector as a secretary and then joined AT&T where she worked her way up to a managerial position which also included training. She worked in operations and human

resources, teaching customer service managers how to treat customers, and how to interact with fellow employees. Being an avid reader and with her love of writing and training, she discovered her calling as a teacher and counselor, which prompted her to consider a career at Governor's State University.

If you ask Professor Yirku what the best day of her life was, she will tell you that the day she graduated from college with a Bachelor's Degree was one of the greatest days of her life, because she never dreamed it could happen. At this point in her life, Professor Yirku is truly happy and satisfied with the path her life has taken. She feels that all the jobs she has held have brought her to this point in time and she "would change nothing in her life." At this point in her life, her only plan for the future is to continue in her position at GSU and to someday travel a bit more.

In order to get a more "well-rounded" view of Professor Yirku, two more interviews were done. Dr. Rhea, a fellow colleague of Professor Yirku, has known her a little under two years. He first met her when he accepted the faculty position at GSU and would see her from time to time in the halls of GSU. According to Dr. Rhea, "She is a joy to work with and a very caring individual who is passionate about students and other faculty members."

He stated that she has a big heart when it comes to students and faculty alike, is a wonderful person, and wants students and faculty to succeed. She fights on behalf of students and faculty and wishes to see all faculty well represented. He feels that she is an effective leader who is not at all overbearing and knows how to keep students and her fellow faculty members focused and organized. She has a talent for putting students at ease whenever they come to her with problems.

Whenever a guest speaker is at GSU, Professor Yirku takes the time to listen to the speaker and see if there is anything in the speech that can further the goals of her students.

Another fellow colleague, Paula Cosenza has known Professor Yirku for approximately nine years and met her when she was an adjunct professor and university lecturer. She feels she is an excellent professor who would not burden a fellow faculty member with too much busy work. When asked if she were to give a personal reference what it would say, she responded, "Professor Yirku is an awesome person to work with. She gives credit where credit is due and is willing to listen to issues regarding work"

She also stated that she is personable and has even taken the time to talk about pets. She feels she goes the distance regarding students and faculty alike, and when she was designated the coordinator of the communications program, she hit the ground running. She has an excellent eye for hiring good faculty for GSU, and always does what she has to do, no matter how long it takes, to get the job done. Paula stated, "She has been a great contribution to the faculty of GSU from the time she started to the present time."

The Great Debaters of GSU

By Steve Lavoie
Contributing Writer

Interested in meeting new people while improving your public speaking skills? Consider joining GSU's new Forensic/Debate team.

Although many students will relate the idea of forensics to the latest episode of CSI, in the art of speech, forensics actually refers to a form of speech and debate that must be able to pass a legal litmus test, according to team coordinator, Arness Krause, who is a graduate of GSU with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies and a master's in Communication Skills and was director of GSU's Alumni Board. She also teaches at GSU and two local junior colleges.

Krause says the team will tackle several genres of oral interpretation including persuasive speech, humorous and dramatic readings, poetry, and samples of their own writing.

While the debate team will be new to GSU, several local colleges including Prairie

State College, Moraine Valley Community College and Joliet Junior College have teams that have been competing for years. GSU's team will also begin competing with these colleges, with the first face-off set for October 10 at Moraine Valley.

Etta Oben is the student president of GSU's forensics team. Oben has experience with this kind of team, he was a member of Prairie State's forensic team. He thinks that the team can "help put GSU on the map." Oben would encourage students to join because everyone comes in needing to work on something and with enough practice and heart you can improve.

According to a PBS webpage, improved social, organization, and critical thinking skills are all benefits to joining a debate team. The skills learned can serve as preparation for careers in areas such as education and law.

The forensic team meets every other Wednesday and Thursday. For more information contact Arness Krause at a-krause@govst.edu.

Hispanic Heritage Month Underway at GSU

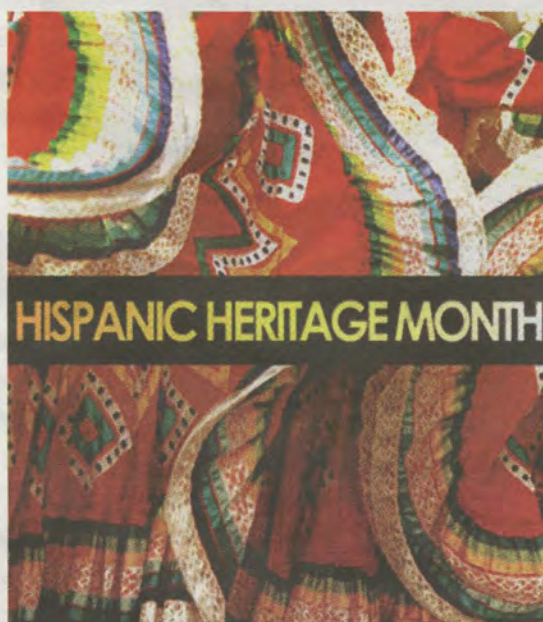
By Kimberly Snapp
Contributing Writer

If you have picked up the sound of Hispanic music or noticed the aroma of Hispanic foods in the air as you walk through the Hall of Governors and think you're lost, you're not. Hispanic heritage month is under way at GSU between now and October 15th featuring notable lectures, food, entertainment, and music.

Some events held to honor Hispanic culture have included Latin dance lessons, a Taste of Latin America and a lecture on Latinos in higher education. If you missed these events, rest assured more activities from this great culture will be taking place on campus. Some dates to remember include:

-Wednesday, Oct. 6, 11 a.m. - 4:40 p.m. - Spanish Reading Club Tamales Fundraiser in the Hall of Governors

-Oct. 6, 5-7 p.m. - The history of Hispanic contributions to music and the influence of Latin



music followed by a music performance with group MOSAICO Engbretson Hall

-Tuesday, Oct 11, 5 - 7 pm The Children Of the Amazon movie in Engbretson Hall

-Thursday, Oct. 14, 5 - 6:30pm Balet Folklorico Viva Mexico and pan dulce (Mexican Bread) in the Hall of Governors.

There will also be a list of interesting Hispanic History facts on the GSU View webpage updated regularly. And a chance to test your knowledge on Hispanic Heritage with the Latin American flag contest at the Hall of Governors and Welcome Center.

All events are sponsored by the Spanish Reading Club, the Latino Center for Excellence, Student Life and the Association of Latino-American Students.

Don't miss out on the fun and exciting chance to celebrate all of the contributions made by Hispanic Americans in the GSU community and our country.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 15 TO OCTOBER 15

sponsored by:

ALAS. CAS. LCE. SLICK. SRC. and Student Life

Date & Time	Activity	Location	Description
Sep 15 - Oct 15	Hispanic History Facts	GSU View	
Sep 15 - Oct 15	Latin America Flag Contest	Hall of Governors & Welcome Center	Test your knowledge for the chance to win a prize
Tue, Oct 5 11:30 - 4:30pm	Taco Sale	Hall of Governors	Delicious steak, chicken, taco sale
Tue, Oct 5 5 - 7pm	Latin Dance Lessons and DJ	Hall of Governors	Free Latin dance lessons and music, no partner needed
Wed, Oct 6 11 - 4:40pm	Spanish Reading Club Tamales Fundraiser	Hall of Governors	Order your tamales by October 3. Chicken, Pork and Cheese. Angelica (773)931.2888
Wed, Oct 6 5 - 7pm	Music Performance with group MOSAICO	Engbretson Hall	Live Music with group MOSAICO
Tue, Oct 11 5 - 7pm	The Children of the Amazon movie	Engbretson Hall	A powerful documentary about the rainforest, preservation, and global climate changes
Thurs, Oct 14 5 - 6:30pm	Balet Folklorico Viva Mexico and pan dulce (Mexican bread)	Hall of Governors	Enjoy Mexican traditional dances performed by 5 to 18 year old dancers

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Grade Yourself: The College Student's Self-Evaluation Tool

By Bob Roth

The "College & Career Success" Coach

If your most important goal in college is to graduate with a good job, you may be looking for a quick and simple way to assess your chances. Here is a tool that can help you evaluate your performance and progress in ten important areas.

Rating Scale - For each item, circle the number that best represents your current status.

Superior = 5, Above Average = 4, Average = 3, Below Average = 2, Poor = 1

1. Grades -

Many employers use grades as their initial screening factor. If your grades meet or exceed their requirements, you may be interviewed. However, if your grades fall below their requirements, they will not interview you.

Rate your grades.

5 4 3 2 1

2. Campus Activities -

Employers generally prefer well-rounded students. They look for students who have been successful in a variety of activities. Have you been able to stand out in a positive way? Rate your overall performance and success in the campus activities you have chosen.

5 4 3 2 1

3. Part-Time Work -

Your work experience has a high value in the eyes of employers. If you have been successful in a summer job, co-op assignment, internship or part-time job, especially one in your field of interest, employers will take notice. Rate your work performance and experience.

5 4 3 2 1

4. Community Activities -

Employers often notice students who have made a difference in the local community. Have you given talks, raised funds, taught students, supervised others or in some

way made a contribution in the local community?

Since community involvement is another way for students to demonstrate their capabilities, rate your performance in this area.

5 4 3 2 1

5. Leisure Activities -

When your leisure activities contain performance elements that are important to employers, you should include them on your resumé. Have you started your own business, won awards, been written up in the newspaper, served as a leader or had other impressive experiences?

Rate your performance here.

5 4 3 2 1

6. Accomplishments -

Most of all, employers want to learn about your accomplishments. That's because employers hire results oriented, highly effective, hard working people who have already proved that they can get important things done.

Rate your accomplishments.

5 4 3 2 1

7. Leadership -

Employers love students with leadership skills. Have you taken on any responsibilities that enabled you to lead others and demonstrate your leadership abilities, in order to accomplish a worthwhile goal? You can't become a good leader without leading.

Rate your leadership skills.

5 4 3 2 1

8. Communication Skills -

The most effective students and employees have strong communication skills (Reading, Writing, Speaking, Presenting, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar). That's why the best employers look for examples of your communication skills. Rate your communication skills.

5 4 3 2 1

9. Job Hunting Preparation -

Effective job hunters understand that preparation is a critical key to their success. Because preparation involves so

much work and so many activities, they lay out a step-by-step job hunting plan that will take them from the freshman year right up through their senior year of college.

Rate your job hunting preparation.

5 4 3 2 1

10. References -

Enthusiastic, well-known and influential references can seal the deal for you.

That's why savvy students start to think about their references long before they are needed. It takes time to cultivate the respect and confidence of the people you will ask to serve as references.

Rate your success in cultivating your references.

5 4 3 2 1

Bottom Line -

Good jobs are not won in job interviews. They are won long before that. Good jobs go to the students who recognize the needs of employers, early in their college experience, and work hard to improve their skills and gain experience in the areas that will impress their target employers.

As a concerned student, you can review your numbers in each area and decide on a course of action for the coming semester. If you start now and work diligently going forward, you can improve your chances for job hunting success.

Visit Bob's website:
www.The4Realities.com.

Bob Roth is the author of three books: *College Success*, *Advice For Parents Of High School And College Students*, *The 4 Realities Of Success During and After College -and- The College Student's Guide To Landing A Great Job*.

Follow his blog at:
<http://collegesuccess.blog.com>.

GSU welcomes distinguished educators to CBPA

Courtesy of GSU PR Dept.

GSU's College of Business and Public Administration welcomes six new faculty members with expertise in the areas of research, management, finance, entrepreneurship, and law.

Dr. Carlos Ferran, Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems, has taught at Penn State, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Boston University, where he received a doctorate degree in business administration. Ferran also enjoyed a successful career in the oil, software, and financial industries of Venezuela.

Dr. Olu Ijose, Assistant Professor of Management, is the former Associate Professor of Management at the Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. From 1991 to 2003, Ijose worked as a change management consultant for Andersen Consulting and as a competence development advisor for Royal Dutch Shell.

Dr. Susan Ji, Associate Professor of Finance, received her Ph.D. in finance from Arizona State University and taught at Baruch College.

Ji, who is from Chicago, has research interest in the areas of empirical asset pricing, international finance, and behavioral finance.

Professor Brian McKenna, Assistant Professor of Accounting, is a licensed attorney and former IRS agent and corporate tax litigator also from Chicago.

Dr. Gokce Sargut, Assistant Professor of Management, has taught at the City College of New York and focuses his research on organization theory and strategic management.

Professor Robert Sinclair, Instructor of Management and Entrepreneurship, has extensive experience in the automotive industry and enjoys mentoring and researching entrepreneurship.

GSU is proud to welcome these distinguished educators to our academic community.

VOCATIONS IN ARTS AND LETTERS

By Richard W. Fox
University Lecturer, GSU CAS

Often, young people say that they want to go into show business instead of school, as if the two were mutually exclusive. Dustin Hoffman dropped out of a community college because of poor grades, but received training at the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music and the Pasadena Playhouse. Marilyn Monroe was a graduate of the east coast Actors Studio. Jodi Foster graduated Magna Cum Laude from Yale. Madonna has advanced training in dance, including work with the prominent black ensemble, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and with Martha Graham.

Why do people think education is at odds with a show business career? One clear reason is that the media are quite consistent about misinforming people about what it takes to succeed in the field. For instance, if you Google 'Madonna Ciccone,' as I did as an experiment once, you would be hard put to find a bio that concedes that Madonna even finished college.

The mass media do not accurately inform us about what celebrities do or how they do it or what they are like as people.

The unrealistic nature of the expectations of countless people is part of the price we pay when we cannot rely on the media for the truth.

Most writers, like most actors, painters, and others classifiable as artists, have 'day jobs,' such as teaching or any number of other occupations.

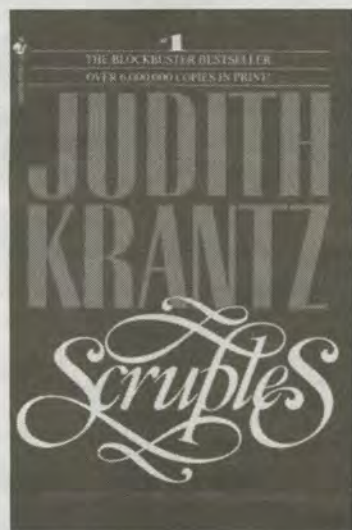
Of course, formal education is not the only kind of preparation or even the only kind of education. In many fields, a resourceful person can educate himself. Show business is only one of them.

There are a lot of ways to become an artist, or a writer. For writing, ironically, there sometimes seems to be an overemphasis on education these days. Finalists for the Chicago Tribune's Nelson Algren Award tend to have MFA degrees, something Algren himself did not have. Since creative writing involves self-expression, there is no real necessity for extensive training in a particular esthetic.

Beyond the nuts and bolts of grammar and style, your education as a writer mostly involves discovering what works for you.

Reading published works is one way to learn how to write professionally. One thing aspiring writers are told to do that sounds surprising is to read dollar dreadfuls to learn techniques.

Consider the first page of *Scruples* (published by Warner Books), a Judith Krantz novel I purchased in 1980 because Lindsay Wagner, an actress I greatly admire, was doing a TV mini series based on it:



In Beverly Hills only the infirm and the senile do not drive their own cars. The local police are accustomed to odd combinations of vehicle and driver: the stately, nearsighted retired banker making an illegal left-hand turn in his Dino Ferrari, the teen-ager speeding to a tennis lesson in a fifty-five-thousand-dollar Rolls-Royce Corniche, the matronly civic leader blithely parking her bright red Jaguar at a bus stop.

Billy Ikehorn Orsini—whose faults did not normally include a tendency to erratic driving—brought her vintage Bentley to a stop with an impatient screech in front of *Scruples*, the world's most lavish specialty store, a virtual club for the floating principality of the very, very rich and the truly famous. She was thirty-five, sole mistress of a fortune estimated at between two hundred and two hundred fifty million dollars by the list makers of the *Wall Street Journal*. Almost half of her wealth was tidily invested in tax-free municipal bonds, a simplification little appreciated by the IRS.

Hurried though she was, Billy lingered in front of *Scruples*, casting a piercingly proprietary eye over her property on the northeast corner of Rodeo Drive and Dayton Way, where, four years ago, Van Cleef & Arpels had stood, a white plaster, gilt, and wrought-iron landmark, which looked as if it had been clipped off the Carlton Hotel in Cannes and shipped intact to California.

Billy's tawny wool cape was lined in golden sable against the chill of the late afternoon of February 1978. She pulled

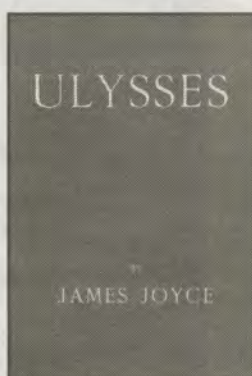
10

She describes a place few people have seen in person -- Beverly Hills. Krantz's heroine is in a hurry, but Krantz wants to describe her store, *Scruples*, so she makes poor Billy Ikehorn wait without explanation as to why she's waiting, apart from her author's desire to describe the place for us.

So you can see how she's doing it here.

At this point we should note that not every genre story or novel is without craft. I picked up a romance novel once because of the lovely woman on the cover. It turned out to be superbly written. So, if you want to learn from horror stories, don't choose Steven King. He's an example of someone who writes horror stories much the way Edgar Allan Poe wrote horror stories.

Now look at the first page of James Joyce's *Ulysses* (published by Vintage):



Stately, plump Buck Mulligan came from the stairhead, bearing a bowl of lather on which a mirror and a razor lay crossed. A yellow dressinggown, ungirdled, was sustained gently behind him by the mild morning air. He held the bowl aloft and intoned:

-- Introibo ad altare Dei.

Halted, he peered down the dark winding stairs and called up coarsely:

-- Come up, Kinch! Come up, you fearful jesuit!

Solemnly he came forward and mounted the round gunrest. He faced about and blessed gravely thrice the tower, the surrounding country and the awaking mountains. Then, catching sight of Stephen Dedalus, he bent towards him and made rapid crosses in the air, gurgling in his throat and shaking his head. Stephen Dedalus, displeased and sleepy, leaned his arms on the top of the staircase and looked coldly at the shaking gurgling face that blessed him, equine in its length, and at the light untousured hair, grained and hued like pale oak.

Buck Mulligan peeped an instant under

the mirror and then covered the bowl smartly.

-- Back to barracks! he said sternly.

He added in a preacher's tone:

-- For this, O dearly beloved, is the genuine Christine: body and soul and blood and ouns. Slow music, please. Shut your eyes, gents. One moment. A little trouble about those white corpuscles. Silence, all.

He peered sideways up and gave a long low whistle of call, then paused awhile in rapt attention, his even white teeth glistening here and there with gold points. Chrysostomos. Two strong shrill whistles answered through the calm.

-- Thanks, old chap, he cried briskly. That will do nicely. Switch off the current, will you?

He skipped off the gunrest and looked gravely at his watcher, gathering about his legs the loose folds of his gown. The plump shadowed face and sullen oval jowl recalled a prelate, patron of arts in the middle ages. A pleasant smile broke quietly over his lips.

-- The mockery of it! he said gaily. Your absurd name, an ancient Greek!

1

Here, you see a man shaving and getting on the nerves of another man who apparently has been in a seminary. Apart from that, what do you know? Especially, you'd want to know how something so mundane as a man shaving could be so enthralling, while Krantz's depiction of something you never saw before may, as it was to me, be rather uninteresting in comparison. Well, that's why you read *Judith* if you want to know how it is done. *Judith* Krantz writes dollar dreadfuls and does so with sufficient lack of craft that you can tell how she does it.

James Joyce is too crafty for us to tell how he does it. His book is known as a masterpiece.

Following in his footsteps is for the sorcerer, not Mickey. [The Sorcerer's Apprentice was based on a poem by Goethe, *Der Zauberlehrling*.]

Even if you're a reader, *Ulysses* may be too much to absorb. Note the use of Latin on the very first page. Even Catholics have trouble with some passages containing extensive Latin. They say *Finnegans Wake* is even harder to follow.

The physicist, Murray Gell-Mann, proposed that protons and neutrons are both made of three smaller particles he called 'quarks.' A proton consists of two up and one down quark, a neutron of two down and one up quark. He got the word 'quark' from a line in *Finnegans Wake*: "Three quarks for Muster Mark." Gell-Mann received the Nobel prize in 1969. It was for physics, but it might have been for being able to get through *Finnegans Wake*.

Now as you progress in skill as a writer, you can pattern yourself after your favorite author. But before you can understand your favorite author as a fellow writer, you have to become one. Eventually, you find your own voice.

Richard W. Fox is a Physics and Astronomy lecturer at Governors State University, with a B.S. in Physics from Loyola University and an M.S. in Physics from DePaul University. His work has been published in several scientific publications. He is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

The Governors State University

APICS Club will meet

on Thursday, October 7, 2010,
from 12 noon to 1 p.m. and from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
in room A 2150 (near Student Commons).

Interested students can attend EITHER of the two meetings.

APICS (originally the American Production and Inventory Control Society; now the Association for Operations Management) is an international organization, with a student chapter in GSU (the GSU APICS Club).

Come and learn about our past activities, participation in Great Lakes Region Student Case Competition, students sponsored to attend APICS International Conference, plant visits, etc. Bring your enthusiasm and leadership aspirations.

Membership of the Club is free to GSU students (The optional student membership of APICS International costs \$25 a year). The club offers leadership opportunities, plant visits, talks and workshops, certification help, and participation in the Chicago APICS Student Case Competition. There are also opportunities to work with the Chicago APICS chapter – especially to attend their professional development meetings and to network with their members.

Please attend either meeting if you are interested in the club. For additional information, please contact Prof. John Simon (j-simon@govst.edu)

FEATURES

10 | 06 | 10

11

Steve's Reviews: Rat Girl, A Memoir by Kristin Hersh

By Steve LaVoie
Contributing Writer

If you absolutely must have a constant barrage of lewd stories, celebrity name drops, and music business lingo that only people in the music business understand in your memoir reading, then stay far away from this book.

Rat Girl: A Memoir is musician Kristin Hersh's account of her life during the early days of the band Throwing Muses. The story begins spring 1985 and follows Hersh's journey over the next year as the driving force of the band while facing pregnancy and a bipolar diagnosis.

Before you let your heart sink into a pit of sorrow, you must know this book is by no means sad. It is instead touching and oftentimes laugh-out-loud funny. It moves at a great pace, it's not slow and drawn-out but keeps things moving without making you wonder what the hell just happened. There is very little reflection or



analysis which works very well, the most reflective moments are the inserted song lyrics and brief moments from her childhood written in a different font, the rest of the time the reader is just along for the eventful ride.

Some of the best moments in the book recount Hersh's conversations with her friend, actress Betty Hutton, although there is plenty of great writing throughout. I don't think being a fan of her music is a requirement to enjoy this book, even though snippets of her lyrics are put in to help tie things together, you don't need to be able to hear the song in your head to understand why the lyric is there.

Granted it is not a perfectly written book and probably won't be studied in literature classes anytime soon, but this book has proved to me that a memoir written by someone who is not a writer doesn't have to suck.

3 stars out of 4
336 pages

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&

Chess

Crossword & Sodoku found on page 8.

9	2	3	6	5	8	4	7	1
7	1	6	3	4	9	2	8	5
8	4	5	2	1	7	3	6	9
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3	9	2	7	5	6	8	1	4
1	8	4	9	2	3	7	5	6
5	7	9	1	3	2	6	4	8
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4	3	8	7	6	5	1	9	2

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				E	R	O	S					O	R	I
				R	I	L	E					N	O	T

WHAT'S UP

12

10 | 06 | 10

Crossword & Sudoku: solutions on page 7

ACROSS

1. Purposes
5. French for "Our"
10. Anger
14. Start over
15. Bay window
16. Cupid, to the Greeks
17. Electrical phenomenon
19. Gait faster than a walk
20. Bother
21. Ritual
22. Sail for pleasure
24. Spouse
25. Not a substitute
26. Languid
29. Docking facility
30. China grass
31. Beauty parlor
32. Black gunk
35. Freudian stage
36. Mature
37. Employ
38. Twitch
39. Banknotes
40. Bullwinkle for example
41. A "stick" of frozen water
43. Disparaged
44. Dark-skinned
46. Coastal raptor
47. A triangular fore-and-aft sail
48. Narrow opening
49. To and

DOWN

1. Murres
2. Transmit
3. Cocoyam
4. Former French coin
5. Advise
6. Give a speech
7. Prong
8. VCR button
9. An elementary particle with negative charge
10. Bring back
11. Annoyance
12. Not tight
13. Aromatic compound
18. Law-breaking
23. Precipitation
24. Cry out
25. Periods of discounted prices
26. "Shucks!"
27. Hindu princess
28. Gauntness
29. Official tree of Canada
31. Nonsensical
32. Backside
34. Marsh plant
36. Copiousness
37. Sharpen
39. Chomp
40. Devilfish
42. Come up with
43. An introductory textbook
44. Quench
45. Alerts
46. Leave out
48. Pierce
49. Monetary penalty
50. Street
51. Burden
54. Resort
55. Vat

Happenings: What's going on at GSU!

PTSD Information Session
October 6
5 - 6 p.m.
B1215

IL Dep't. of Employment Security
Lynn Salkeld
October 12
1 - 4 p.m.
D1497

National Depression Screening Day
October 7
Noon - 5 p.m.
B1215

Civil Service Town Hall Meeting with President Maimon
October 19
1 p.m.
Cafeteria Annex

CBPA Grad Program Open House
October 9
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Cafeteria Annex

Interdisciplinary Studies Portfolio Workshop
October 23
10 am - noon
D1496
\$50

GMAT Prep Series
Oct 9, 16, 23, 30
November 6, 13
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
\$300
B2202
708.534.4391 or
bpa-info@govst.edu



Goings-on @ GSU
Courtesy of the GSU View

4	3	8	7	6		1		2
2				9		5	3	
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3						8		
6								
		5		1		3		9
	1						8	
9			6				7	

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The Phoenix welcomes letters to the editor and/or editorials. Letters can be submitted to phoenix@govst.edu. Letters may be edited for space or content and must include your name and a contact number or email address by which you can be reached.

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